

CITY OF ROCHESTER



ANNUAL REPORT

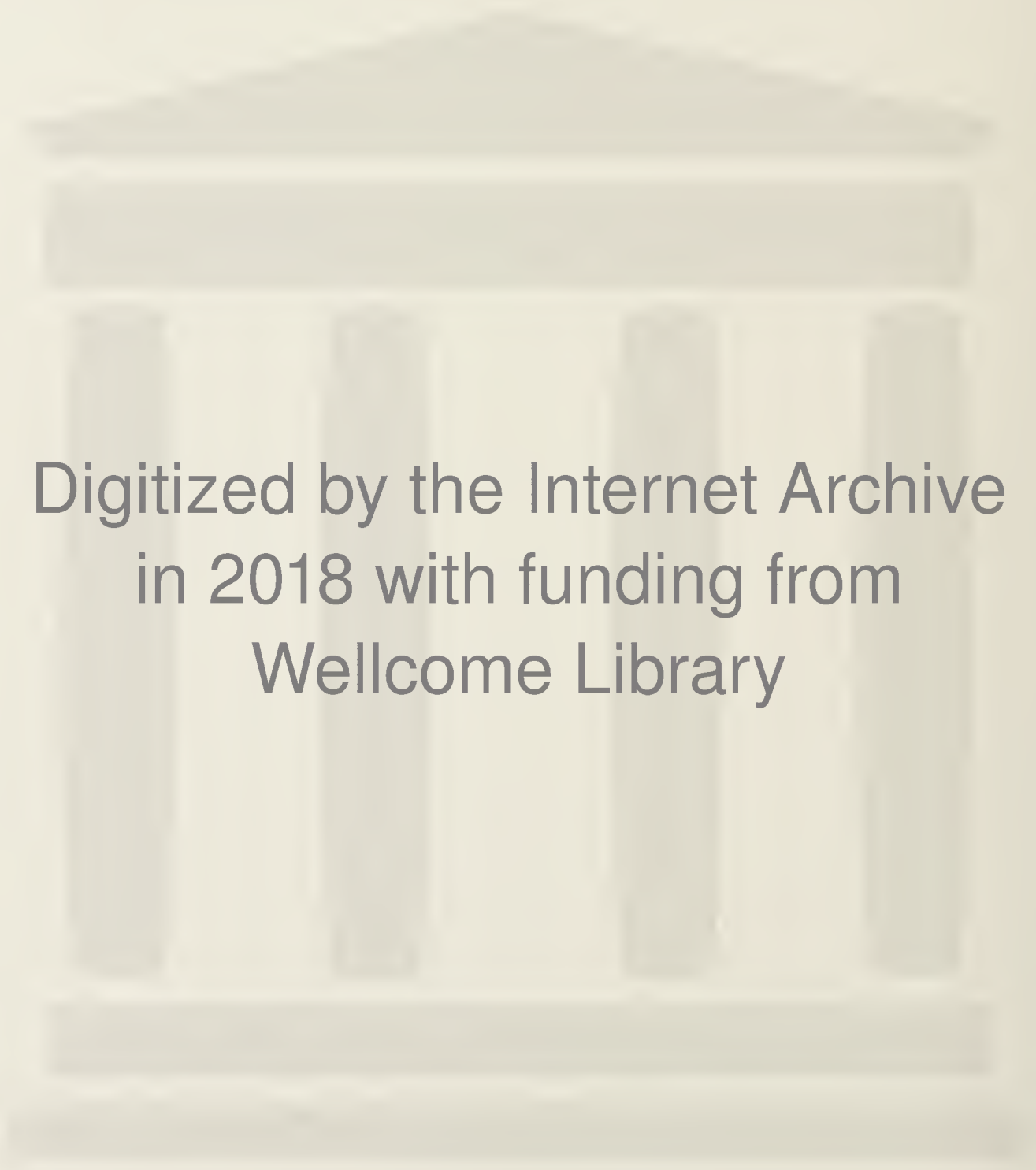
of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

of the

PORT OF ROCHESTER

1969



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PORT OF ROCHESTER

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER FOR 1969

Members of the Port Health Committee 1969/70

- Chairman* - The Deputy Mayor, Councillor J.H.L. Morgan
Vice-Chairman - Councillor Mrs. M.A. Ashurst
- The Mayor, Councillor L.E.D. Darley, J.P.,
Alderman J.D. May, J.P.,
Alderman H. Wilson, J.P.,
Alderman F. Corry
Alderman C.W. Frid, C.C.,
Councillor N.A. Corry
Councillor E.W. Baker
Councillor G.T. Brown
Councillor Mrs. S.D. Marron
Councillor H.A. Verkely
Councillor M.C. Grieveson

AREA OF JURISDICTION

From Hawkwood (between Snodland and Aylesford) to Colemouth Creek, including all creeks, civilian docks and land up to the high water mark in the area between these two points - a distance of some 18 miles.

RIPARIAN AUTHORITIES WITHIN THE PORT OF ROCHESTER

**Rochester Municipal Borough
Chatham Municipal Borough
Gillingham Municipal Borough
Malling Rural District
Strood Rural District
Swale Rural District**

PORT HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
DENMARK HOUSE,
70 MAIDSTONE ROAD,
ROCHESTER,
KENT.

Medway: 46121

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE ROCHESTER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting, as Port Medical Officer of Health for the Port of Rochester, my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1969.

The Report has been prepared in accordance with the directions contained in Form Port 20 of the Ministry of Health which states that with the exception of every fifth year, when a full Report is required, the information given previously under Sections I, V, VI, VIII, XIV, XV and XVI and remaining unchanged need not be repeated but the words "NO CHANGE" entered in lieu.

During the year 1,708 vessels with a total net tonnage of 758,319 tons entered the Port compared to 1,727 vessels with a total net tonnage of 716,756 during 1968. This is a slight decrease in the number of vessels but an increase in tonnage.

As the majority of vessels using the Port carry woodpulp or paper the numbers may well be reduced in the future with the arrival of the LASH type ship which has a cargo capacity of approximately 27,000 tons carried in about 75 loaded barges. These larger ships would, of necessity, anchor in the lower estuary to discharge the barges the latter, only, proceeding up river.

From the 1st March 1969 the Port has been approved and designated under the International Sanitary Regulations for the issue of Deratting Certificates, none was issued during the period under review but 69 Deratting Exemption Certificates were issued.

Rochester is not a major food importing Port but the amount and complexity of the food which does arrive merits close examination under the Imported Food Regulations and 67 samples were submitted to the Analyst for examination.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

L.F. McWILLIAMS,

Port Medical Officer.

I. STAFF

TABLE A

NAME OF OFFICER	NATURE OF APPOINTMENT	DATE OF APPOINTMENT	QUALIFICATIONS	ANY OTHER APPOINTMENTS HELD
L.F. McWilliams, M.C.,	Port Medical Officer	17. 4. 1959	M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health - City of Rochester; Borough of Chatham; Strood R.D.; Medical Referee, Medway Crematorium.
W.D. Rosenwald	Deputy Port Medical Officer	1. 4. 1969	M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health - City of Rochester; Boroughs of Chatham; Gillingham; Sittingbourne; Faversham; Queenborough-in-Sheppey; Swale R.D.; Strood R.D.; Deputy Medical Referee, Medway Crematorium.
Lt. Cmdr. W. Jones M.B.E., R.N.	Port Health Inspector	1. 1. 1968	C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I.,	
R.S. Lane	Part Time Deputy Port Health Inspector	1. 1. 1961	C.S.I.E.J.B., C.M.I., D.M.A.	Senior Public Health Inspector, City of Rochester.

Medical Officer of Health, 70 Maidstone Road, Rochester, Tel: Medway 46121

II. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR:

TABLE B

Ships From	Number	Tonnage	Number Boarded		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Port Medical Officer	By the Port Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports	1,359	616,787	Nil	551	Nil
Coastwise	349	141,532	Nil	234	Nil
Total	1,708	758,319	Nil	785	Nil

The number of foreign ships using the Port during 1969 dropped slightly (6%) but coastwise increased by 19% and the total tonnage was up by 41,663 approximately 6%.

YEAR	SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS	COASTWISE	TOTAL TONNAGE
1962	882	430	624,205
1963	937	405	667,840
1964	1,021	352	647,903
1965	1,099	350	681,960
1966	1,075	395	749,632
1967	1,265	360	721,134
1968	1,443	284	716,756
1969	1,359	349	758,319

III. CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE C

(a)	PASSENGER TRAFFIC.	Nil.
(b)	CARGO TRAFFIC.	
	Principal IMPORTS	- Agricultural and Horticultural Produce, various tinned foods, beers, wines, spirits, machinery, fertilizers, china clay, woodpulp, timber, oil, coal, maize starch, ballast, paper, plastic, crushed bone, stone and scrap leather.
	Principal EXPORTS	- Cement, bitumen, diesel and gas oils, scrap iron, scrap paper, machinery and general cargoes.
(c)	PRINCIPAL PORTS FROM WHICH SHIPS ARRIVE.	
	Foreign.	- Antwerp, Archangel, Boulogne, Bremen, Clarke City, Dieppe, Dordrecht Dunkirk, Frankfurt, Gdansk, Groningen, Hango, Hamburg, Hammina, Helsinki, Kalinnagrad, Kemi, Kooga Zaan, Kos, Kotka, Kragero, Las Palmas, Leixoes, Maasluis, Mannheim, Miranda, Mansteras, Oulu, Ostend, Puerto, Rhine Ports, Rotterdam, Sandarne, Sande, Sandviken, Stettin, Sumdsvald, Tenerife, Yacobstad, Zaandam.
	Coast.	Arbroath, Belfast, Blyth, Charleston, Goole, Hartlepool, Montrose, Newburgh, Newlyn, Par, Plymouth, St. Valery.

IV. INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

Not applicable to this port.

V. WATER SUPPLY.

1. (a) FOR THE PORT. No change.
- (b) FOR SHIPPING. No change.

2. REPORTS OF TESTS FOR CONTAMINATION.

22 samples of the Chatham and District water supply and 20 samples of the Strood Water supply were taken for bacteriological examination.

All samples showed satisfactory results.

In addition 17 samples of drinking water were taken from ships' tanks, 26 samples from filling points and 23 samples from the water boats.

Classification of Results.

Water boats	23 samples	Class 1
Filling points	23 samples	Class 1
	1 sample	Class 2
	2 samples	Class 4
Ships' tanks	12 samples	Class 1
	5 samples	Class 4

In all cases of Class 4, the ship's Master was informed of the contamination and arrangements made for fresh water tanks to be cleansed and super-chlorinated. Repeat samples were taken whenever possible.

The following classification is used:-

		COLIFORM COUNT PER 100 ml.	BAC. COLI. COUNT PER 100 ml.
Class 1	Excellent	0	0
Class 2	Satisfactory	1 - 3	0
Class 3	Suspicious	4 - 10	0
Class 4	Unsatisfactory	Greater than 10	0 or more

3. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST CONTAMINATION OF HYDRANTS AND HOSEPIES.

No change.

4. NUMBER AND SANITARY CONDITION OF WATER BOATS AND POWERS OF CONTROL BY THE AUTHORITY.

There are two water boats - Robin III and IV and the powers of control by the Authority have not changed.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS 1966.

1. LIST OF INFECTED AREAS.

No change.

2. RADIO MESSAGES.

No change.

3. NOTIFICATIONS OTHERWISE THAN BY RADIO.

No change.

4. MOORING STATIONS.

No change.

5. ARRANGEMENTS FOR:-

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox).

No change.

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts.

No change.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection.

No change.

VII. SMALLPOX.

1. Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent:-
Long Reach Hospital, Dartford. Tel: Dartford 23231
2. Transport of smallpox cases to hospital.

This is provided by the Greater London Council Ambulance Service.
Tel: Waterloo 3311

Application is made by telephone and written confirmation sent to the County Medical Officer,
County Hall London.
3. Consultants Available.

Dr. E. O'Sullivan, Joyce Green, Dartford. Tel: Dartford 23231.

Dr. E.H. Brown, Hither Green Hospital, Hither Green Lane, S.E. 13.
Tel: Hither Green 3481.
4. Laboratory Diagnosis Facilities.

Specimens for laboratory diagnosis would be sent to the Virus Reference Laboratory, Colindale
Avenue, Colindale, London N.W. 9.

Tel. Colindale 7041.

VIII. VENEREAL DISEASE.

No change.

IX. CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS.

TABLE D

Category	Disease	Number of cases during the year		Number of Ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

X. OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA ON SHIPS.

The bulk of the shipping is from Scandinavian, Netherlands and German Ports and to a lesser extent from North American Ports. Tankers from Venezuela are loaded there at Jetties extending well out into the sea, thus malarial carrying mosquitoes constitute little hazard to the crews, and there have been no cases aboard ships entering the Port of Rochester during the year.

XI. MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No infected or suspected vessels have arrived during the year.

XII. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS.
(1) PROCEDURE FOR INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR RATS.

Deratting or Deratting Exemption Certificates are examined as a routine and further course of action is determined as a result of such inspection. When inspecting crew's quarters etc., a general inquiry is usually enough to discover the presence of rats on board, some seamen complain very readily if they know of rats on board the ship.

Cargo workers are good source of information. The trade on which the vessel has been engaged since her last Deratting, or Deratting Exemption Certificate, was issued is an important factor in determining what further inspection should be carried out. Cargoes of wood pulp have little attraction for rats and vessels engaged constantly in this trade are not often infested; if rats are found they are generally confined to a peak or store room and are not distributed throughout the ship.

On the other hand a ship that has been employed for some time in carrying grain, or has carried out a long trip with such a cargo merits further investigation, particularly if her Deratting Certificate is nearing its expiratory date.

(2) BACTERIOLOGICAL OR PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF RODENTS.

There is no rodent operative permanently on Port work but, in cases when it is deemed necessary, the shore rodent operative is employed in order to obtain specimens of rats for bacteriological examination.

(3) DERATTING OF SHIPS.

Deratting and Deratting Exemption Certificates are issued by the Port of Rochester. In cases where fumigation is unnecessary deratting is carried out by means of poisons, traps and sulphur.

When inspecting a vessel for the issue of a certificate in accordance with Article 52 of the International Sanitary Regulations the inspection is carried out as required by the regulations governing the issue of such a certificate. The whole vessel from peaks, hold and engine room to chart and wireless rooms is inspected and report is made on harbourage, specifying the particular harbourage found in each compartment.

(4) RAT-PROOFING OF SHIPS.

There are no vessels, other than naval vessels and motor barges, built in the Port and measures are confined to dealing with existing rat-proofing which has suffered damage in service.

Inspection continues to show that effective rat-proofing of new construction is of major importance and harbourages are now practically eliminated. With the very high standard of hygiene on board ships, absence of food scraps and waste water, it is increasingly difficult for any rat population to survive.

TABLE E
RODENTS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

CATEGORY	NUMBER
Black rats	Nil
Brown rats	Nil
Species not known	Nil
Sent for examination	Nil
Infected with Plague	Nil

TABLE F

**DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES ISSUED
DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS**

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued
After Fumigation with		After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total		
HCN	Other fumigant (State method)					
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	45	45

24 Deratting Exemption Certificates were also issued to British Coastwise vessels making occasional trips to Continental Ports.

XIII. INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES.

TABLE G

INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

Number of Inspections		Notices Served		Results of Notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
British Vessels	159	Nil	34	28 complied
Foreign Vessels	430	Nil	9	7 complied
River Craft	64	Nil	15	15 complied

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS AND NUISANCES FOUND ON VESSELS.

		FOUND	REMEDIED
Accommodation	Neglected paintwork	5	2
	Defective ports and skylights	5	3
	Cockroach infestation	1	1
	Condensation	1	1
	Defective flooring	2	-
W.C.'s	Broken water closet valve	1	1
	Choked water closet	5	5
	Defective water closet	1	1
	Absence of sanitary accommodation	1	1
	Defective pump to water closet	1	1
	Choked soil pipe	1	1
	Absence of scupper	1	-

		FOUND	REMEDIED
Washrooms	Defective shower	1	-
	Wash-hand basin stained & chipped	1	-
Galleys	Defective top to working surfaces	1	1
	Absence of scupper	1	-
	Cockroach infestation	1	1
	Neglected paintwork	6	3
	Defective floor	3	1
	Choked scupper	6	6
	Defective cooking range	1	1
	Absence of hot-water boiler	1	1
Provision storeroom	Defective extractor fans	3	-
	Neglected paintwork	2	1
	Dirty meat chopping block	3	3
	Not rat proofed	1	-
Miscellaneous	Misuse of crew accommodation	1	1
	Leaking fresh water tank	1	1
	Contaminated fresh water tank	7	7
	Collection of refuse on deck	6	6
	Excessive emission of smoke	4	4
		<hr/> 75	<hr/> 54

The general pattern of defects found on board ships does not vary much from year to year and can be attributed to hard wear and tear.

In general the standard of foreign vessels using the Port is of a very high order. The majority of these ships are of post-war construction and are very well maintained.

Defects and nuisances are mostly found on coasters. These vessels are usually bulk carriers of coal, stone, etc., and their stay in port is very brief.

Usually the Masters and Superintendents are most co-operative in attempting to carry out repairs during their short stay and, unless the defect is of a serious nature and detrimental to the health of the crew, the majority of defects are placed on the Master's list of defects to be repaired when docked, or when in the vicinity of their own yards. Painting is a never ending task on board ship and, with watchkeeping between short hauls and a brief stay in port, painting of the accommodation is sometimes neglected.

XIV. PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELLFISH) REGULATIONS, 1934.

No change.

XV. MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALLIENS.

Rochester is not an approved Port for the landing of aliens.

XVI. MISCELLANEOUS.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BURIAL ON SHORE OF PERSONS WHO HAVE DIED ON BOARD SHIP FROM AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No change.

CASES OF SICKNESS ON BOARD VESSELS ARRIVING IN THE PORT.

Gonorrhoea	2	Pleurisy	1	Fractured Wrist	1
Influenza	1	Perforated Gastric Ulcer	1	Vomiting & Stomach Pains	2

VACCINATION.

23 members of crews were re-vaccinated against smallpox as their International Certificates were out of date.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1968.

Of the 1,708 cargoes entering the Port 115 were entirely of foodstuffs viz:-

Maize Starch	83	Tomato Puree	1	Potatoes	8
Glucose	13	Onions	6	Rice	4

In addition there were 259 General/Food/Wine cargoes containing various quantities of the following:-

Chicken	)	Butter	Preserves
Fruit	)	Eggs	Wines
Luncheon Meat	)	Dehydrated Vegetables	Confectionery
Ham	) Tinned	Fresh Vegetables	Tomato Puree
Milk	)	Quick Frozen Vegetables	Pork Loins
Tongue	)	Cheese	Pork Shoulders
Beer	)	Fruit	Tinned Duck
		Honey	Frozen Prawns
		Jam	Champagne
		Pickled Gherkins	Chocolate
		Tinned Apple	

Food condemned and destroyed totalling 6 tons 18 cwts. 3 qr. 22½ lbs.

TONS	CWT.	QRS.	LBS.	
	4	-	-	Tomato Paste
	4	3	23	Gherkins
			25	Flaked Nuts
	2	3	9	Strained Apple
	1	1	16	Cheese
3	16	-	18	Onions
		2	14	Butter
	1	-	13¾	Confectionery
			10½	Cocktail Toast
		1	14	Solid Pack Apple
	1	2	8	Tomato Puree
			4¾	Chicken in Jelly
	4	2	8	Dehydrated Onion
1	9	2	12½	Tinned Plums
			14	Luncheon Meat
	3	1	6	Carton Red Peppers
	2	-	4	Chocolate Mix
	5	-	-	One Drum Pickled Onions
			25	Baby Carrots
			1	Teabreak
			25	Tomato Flake
			5½	Evaporated Milk
			6¼	Canned Gooseberries
		1	11¼	Greengages

SAMPLING OF FOOD CARGOES: Chemical Analysis

Attention continues to be given to the inspection and sampling of imported foods.

The total number of food samples taken and submitted to the Public Analyst during the year was 67. Samples were submitted for examination regarding compositional standard, prohibited additives and colouring matter.

	NO. OF SAMPLES		NO. OF SAMPLES
Goose Liver & Pork Paste	1	Tarhenya (Farfals)	1
Chewing Gum	2	Sardines	2
Tomato Paste	3	Thirst Quenchers	1
Beef Goulash	2	Assorted Fruit Rolls	1
Pork Goulash	1	Assorted Candy tablets	1
Chicken Skins	1	Plum Puree	1
Instant Coffee	1	Fresh Egg Mayonnaise	1
Mixed Salad	1	Lemon Mayonnaise	1
Pickled Paprika	1	Bearnaise	1
Paprika	1	Butter Aroma	1
Strained Apples	1	Milk Chocolates	3
Confectionery	5	Smoked Pork Sausages	1
Solid Pack Apple	1	Chicken Liver Pate	1
Olive Oil	1	Mixed Salian Fruits	1
Chocolate Cups	1	Vinegar	1
Peppermint Creams	1	Sauce Tartare	1
Sherbert filled bubble gum balls	2	Liqueur Chocolates	1
Blackcurrant Syrup	1	Fruity Chews	1
Grapellor Grape juice	2	Terrine de fois gras Truffle	1
Monello Cherries	1	Tinned Peas	1
Raspberries in Syrup	2	Liquorice Strawberry Cables	1
Gooseberries in Syrup	1	Groundnuts in Shells	1
Gherkins	1	Whole Roasted Duck in Jelly	1
Tomato Puree	1	Edible Gelatine	1
Chicken Curry in Rice	1		

65 samples were found to be genuine.

1 (a) Sample contained a prohibited colour.

1 (b) Sample contained excessive lead content in container.

(a) SHERBERT FILLED BUBBLE GUM BALLS.

The Public Analyst reported that the sample contained a red colour which was not a permitted colour, but it had not been identified with certainty. In this respect this sample was not satisfactory.

The Importers were informed and the consignment released pending further investigation.

A further sample was submitted to the Public Analyst from stocks held at Oldham, who reported that the sample which consisted of the black colour gum contained a non permitted red dye which could not be identified.

The Importers requested the manufacturers in Germany to send a sample of their Colour Number European A.151 Colour Index 28440 for examination.

The Public Analyst reported that this batch of black balls did not contain any red component at all and it was not responsible for the complaint concerning the bubble gum.

The Importers were informed that they could either have the goods returned to Germany, have the goods destroyed under supervision or have the black coloured balls removed.

They elected to return the goods to Germany and confirmed that future shipments would be made without any black coloured bubble gum balls.

(b) **PLASTIC PURSES FILLED WITH CONFECTIONERY.**

Country of origin - Hong Kong.

The Public Analyst reported that the confectionery was free from toxic metals, sulphite preservatives and prohibited colours. The plastic containers were examined for lead, and the red plastic was found to contain 950 parts per million and the green plastic 450 parts per million. Other containers were free from lead.

While there is no statutory standard for the maximum lead content in toys, a suggested maximum of 250 parts per million is recommended. The Public Analyst suggested that the Importer of these items should approach his manufacturer to reduce the lead content appropriately.

The Importers who were informed accordingly, wrote immediately to the manufacturers stating that it was essential that this situation be changed as regards all future shipments. Either the composition of the colouring matter in the plastic purses must be changed so that the maximum lead content is 250 parts per million and if this was not possible then the assortment must be changed so that the red and green purses are omitted.

The manufacturers reported that there are no manufacturers in Hong Kong who can guarantee the lead less than 0.0002. In order to avoid further trouble the red and green colours will in future be omitted. The Department of Health and Social Security was also informed of the Public Analyst's report and reported that the important thing here is whether or not lead is likely to be leached from the plastic containers into the confectionery.

In consequence a sample was submitted to the Laboratory of the Government Chemist who reported that the small amount of lead in the plastic is not easily extracted by chewing or leaching and is not likely to be digested in significant quantities by children playing with these purses.

RE-EXPORT OF DETAINED CARGO.

Blood Plasma Powder.

Examination of the above powder showed a tag label overprinted "Federal Republic of Germany Inspected No. 4198", with a small illegible stamp and signature.

As the number did not conform to the Establishment Number issued in current Imported Food Regulations the parcel was detained.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was informed of the circumstances.

In view of the inaccuracy of the official certificate the Importers were informed that the consignment could not be removed other than for re-exportation.

The Importers requested release for export to Eire; and the consignment was released accordingly.

L.F. McWILLIAMS,

Port Medical Officer.

